

Ronald E. DeAscentis
45 Wolcott Avenue
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842-2918

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April 4, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA)-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

RE: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food."

Dear Sirs:

I absolutely demand that your agency **does not attempt to change the wording** of the current radiation disclosure statement. It should **always include the terms irradiation, irradiated plus the use of the radura symbol.**

Terms such as "**cold pasteurization**" and "**electronic pasteurization**" are both **misleading terms** to an ill informed public.

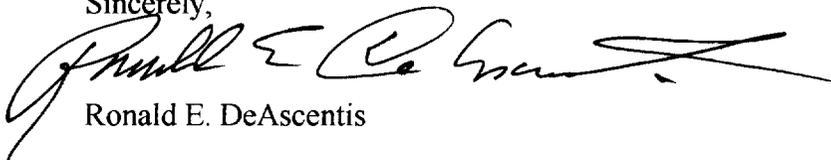
Labeling should always be **honest** and that **includes disclosing the fact that foods have been irradiated.** Not including the fact that a food has been irradiated would **mislead consumers** into believing that irradiated foods (which have their vitamin contents lessened or destroyed, plus sensory and spoilage qualities altered) are as nutritious as non irradiated foods.

What have you got to hide? Why not **tell the whole truth and let the people make their own choices?**

We still live in a democracy, don't we? Does our government still work by and for all of it's people? Has the position of the FDA, to protect the citizens of America, been compromised?

What good is a nation filled with sick people eating irradiated, fake foods?

Sincerely,



Ronald E. DeAscentis

98N-1038

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Ronald E. De Ascentis
45 Wolcott Avenue
Middletown, R. I. 02842-5918



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